

Bellevue Civic Association

Fourth Quarter membership meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Tim Pfohl

Bobby Vincent, Director, Dept. of Public Works, City of Richmond:

Mr. Vincent gave an overview of the areas of responsibility that DPW (Department of Public Works) manages in the City. These include bridge maintenance, facilities management, fleet maintenance, grounds maintenance, parking management, right-of-way maintenance, solid waste, capital project management, street cleaning and maintenance, street lighting, etc.

Mr. Vincent shared the “Complete Streets” program where 21 million/yr. has been budgeted for paving and sidewalk replacement. Currently 71% of the streets in the 3rd District have been repaired or paved along with many linear feet of sidewalk replaced.

In addition to current street and sidewalk maintenance, upcoming projects include – pothole repair, additional paving, handicap ramps and curb-cuts (4K have been installed or improved over the past 7 years), bike lanes (approaching 50 different lane systems), alley maintenance (gravel and repair), speed tables (200 installed this year), GIS asset management (super can identification and tracking).

DPW coordinates with the police re: speed enforcement - The police have fewer and fewer resources for traffic enforcement, so a combination of public education and engineering seems to best the best option. Solutions such as speed tables to slow traffic in residential areas and speed and redlight cameras in school districts as well as redlight cameras at selected intersections throughout the city.

Laburnum/Hermitage intersection – three concepts to slow traffic and deal with the left-turn issue are being prepared for public comment.

Ann-Frances Lambert, Councilwoman, 3rd District:

Ms. Lambert presented an update regarding the Fall Line Trail. Henrico County segment has broken ground. Construction on the Bryant Park segment is ongoing and hopes to be complete by sometime in 2024 at an estimated cost of \$3 million. The Bellevue segment is not complete, but utility relocations are done, and the developer hopes to break ground on the remaining work some time in 2024.

City council passed an ordinance to establish a homeless shelter at 1900 Chamberlayne Ave. An inclement weather shelter will be established and operated December 1 through April 14 at a different location, not identified.

Post Office issues continue (slow or no mail delivery and theft) are a federal issue, and all inquiries should be directed to, Jen McCullen at 804-486-1840

Water and gas bills – issues with city utility bills have yet to be resolved. Inquires to city regarding adjustments are not answered or there is no one at the city who can answer questions. Ms. Lambert suggested a call to April Bingham, Director of Public Utilities at 804-646-5205 or email april.bingham@rva.gov. Another contact regarding issues with utility bills is Rodney Munford, Utilities Field Superintendent at 804-646-8618 or email Rodney.Munford@Richmondgov.com.

Panhandling at Brook and Azalea – signs have been posted along the panhandling route and Ms. Lambert stresses not to give money to these individuals. 311 requests may be made through the city 311 app or via the city web site. Ms. Lambert suggested the quickest way to get in touch with her is through her liaison, Kiya Stokes at 804-646-6055 or email at Kiyastokes@rva.com.

Sargent Mason Davis, Richmond City Police Department:

Sargent Davis reported six property crimes in the last 28-day cycle. They were 10 reported last year for the same 28 day cycle.

Clubs are available for free for certain makes of vehicles.

Committees

Halloween Monster Mash:

Fantastic turn out, consensus is the event was a huge success.

Volunteers are needed.

The event came in \$200 under budget.

Prestige Wine was served at the event and was donated by Once Upon A Vine Owner, Bob Kocher.

Treasurer’s Report:

Presented by BCA Treasurer, Paul Wilson:

Assets	Checking	\$6,412.29
	PayPal	\$1,782.40
	Cash	\$0.00
	Total Assets	\$8,194.60
Liabilities	Reserve Fund (in checking	\$5,000.00
	November Printing	\$1,320.00
	Christmas on McArthur	\$323.00
	Total Liabilities	\$6,320.00
Available Funds		\$1,874.69
	Savings (mural fund)	\$9,929.69

Membership:

Presented by Jody & Jamie:

There are 238 current members

32-33 new members were signed up at Monster Mash

Motion to increase dues from \$15 to \$25 – A motion to increase BCA dues was brought forward by the membership committee Co-Chairs, Jodi Teitelman and Jami Bricker, and BCA President, Tim Pfohl. The motion passed unanimously. BCA dues beginning in January 2024 will now be \$25 annually.

Election of Officers:

Current BCA officers have volunteered to serve another term.

Elections committee member, Bob Almond opened the floor to nominations. Hearing none, Bob Almond made the motion to close nominations and proceed to elections. The motion carried and all current BCA officers were elected to another (2024) term

First Wednesday Food Trucks:

10% of sales are donated to Holton PTA

November food truck event not as well attended as October event

Food truck event will cease operations December, January and February and will resume April 2024

Traffic:

Presented by Co-Chair, Margret Pfohl

Enhanced speed zone signs have been installed along Laburnum with an additional \$200 tacked on to the speeding ticket.

Four way stop signs have been installed at Nottaway and Fauquier

No news on the four way stop signs along McArthur

Digital speed indicators installed on Hermitage

Monticello Street from Laburnum to Claremont scheduled paving complete

Beautify Bellevue:

New City Forester, Mike Webb hopes to restart Adopt a tree in the spring.

He also is developing a tree canopy map for the neighborhood.

Mural at Brook/Bellevue:

Presented by Joyce Foster

The artist hired by BCA, Ed Trask broke his arm. Ed wants to complete the mural and will most likely retain another artist, at no additional cost to BCA, to help him finish it. No known completion date. Joyce stressed that this is not a BCA contract but a donation by BCA. The mural is not sponsored by but supported by BCA. It is possible a new agreement with a deadline for completion could be developed.

Other Business & Announcements:

Christmas on MacArthur – Saturday, December 9th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Volunteers needed!

VCU study of Azalea Mall, January – May 2024. Updates pending

Vacant dry cleaners – no news on upgrades or rentals

Porchella - Merchandise sales are down due to event being scaled back to once a year

Scheduled for April 20, 2024. Rain date April 21, 2024. Forms for host & participant included in newsletter. Survey for food truck participation available at www.bellevueporchella.com through December 15.

Updated budget for 2014 to be submitted by 12/31

Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Newsletter:

Coming out in early November

Some new contributors such as Brian Brown (Henrico County) submitted an article on combined sewer overflow. Tim Pfolz submitted an article explaining the need for increasing current dues.

Xmas on MacArthur:

Scheduled for December 9

The business association has asked BCA for volunteers

Suggestions for support include supply of Porta Johns (\$350 currently approved by BCA), setting up the BCA canopy and cash contributions.

Committee Updates:

Membership

Dues increase as discussed above (see Dues Increase)

Traffic

Dept of Public Works working on list of sidewalk repairs

Signs for enhanced speed zones installed on Laburnum with cameras to follow.
Digital speed indicators installed on Hermitage
Monticello Street from Laburnum to Claremont scheduled for paving October 18-31

Beautify Bellevue

Scheduled for April 20, 2024

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Garden Walk

Current Chair will step down.

A search for a new chair underway.

Social Media

Discussion on posting Monster Mash thread, Scheduled paving of streets, food truck events, an all-call for garden walk chair

Security Patrol

Generally, no new news.

Patrols are going out.

Jerry DeVoss switched out the cartop lights from plug in to battery powered.

